

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /062 W

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R 231415Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0531

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL/NICE 0030

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS BORDEAUX 0141

DEPARTMENT : PASS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECON, EWWT, FR

SUBJECT: THE PORTS OF PHILADELPHIA AND BORDEAUX

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS OF THE PORT OF BORDEAUX, THE PHILADELPHIA PORT AUTHORITY AGREED ON APRIL 21, 1976 TO TWIN THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA WITH THE PORT OF BORDEAUX. THIS DECISION WAS APPROVED ON MAY 10, 1976 BY THE PORT OF BORDEAUX. THE CEREMONIES CELEBRATING THE TWINNING OF THESE TWO PORTS ARE SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER, 1976 IN PHILADELPHIA AND IN OCTOBER, 1976 IN BORDEAUX, WHICH CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH THE INAUGURATION OF THE CONTAINER-PORT AT LE VERDON LOCATED ON THE MOUTH OF THE GIRONDE ESTUARY.

2. COMMENT: THE TWINNING OF THE BORDEAUX AND PHILADELPHIA PORTS IS SEEN HERE TO BE VERY MUCH IN THE ECONOMIC INTEREST OF THE PORT OF BORDEAUX. BORDEAUX IS TRYING TO RESTRUCTURE AND RENOVATE IT'S ARCHAIC PORT OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO ATTRACT A MUCH HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

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TRAFFIC. THE MAIN EFFORT IS BEING MADE IN THE PORT OF LE

VERDON WHICH IS ON THE MOUTH OF THE GIRONDE ESTUARY AND

FORMS THE NEWEST PART OF THE BORDEAUX PORT AUTHORITY. A MODERN AUTOMATED CONTAINER-PORT IS BEING CONSTRUCTED THERE TO RECEIVE CONTAINER SHIPS AND TANKERS WITH CAPACITIES OF UP TO 250,000 DTW. AN INDUSTRIAL ZONE AT LE VERDON IS ALSO BEING BUILT WITH STORAGE AND IMPROVED RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON THE POSSIBILITY OF DOW CHEMICAL ESTABLISHING A STEAM-CRACKING PLANT AT LE VERDON WHICH WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PROMOTING THE REGION'S PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. - A FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER IS NOT EXPECTED NOW UNTIL 1980-1982.

3. A MAJOR EFFORT IS BEING MADE BY THE BORDEAUX PORT AUTHORITIES TO ATTRACT AMERICAN SHIPPING. ACCORDINGLY, THE TWINNING OF THESE TWO RIVER PORTS IS SEEN AS A SYMBOLIC STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE ANTICIPATE AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM BORDEAUX WILL GO TO PHILADELPHIA FOR THE CEREMONIES ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 23, 1976 AND THAT A SIMILAR CEREMONY WILL BE HELD HERE IN BORDEAUX DURING THE LATTER PART OF OCTOBER.

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SISTER CITY PROGRAMS, PORTS, SHIPPING DATA  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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